

# An ORM Primer

**A**ll naval operations—including daily routines both afloat and ashore—involve some kind of risk. In fact, everything we do on and off duty requires some degree of decision-making that includes risk-assessment and risk-management. The Navy continually strives to foster an environment where all Sailors, Marines, and Navy civilians—from deck-plate workers to supervisors—are educated and motivated to manage risk in everything they do, during peacetime and conflict. Such management enables us to successfully complete operations, with minimal risk.

Enter operational risk management, or ORM, as it has come to be known.

ORM is a decision-making tool people at all levels and in all branches of the armed services use to increase operational effectiveness and efficiency. It identifies potential hazards and significantly reduces the possibility of injury and material loss, thereby increasing the odds for successful mission accomplishment with minimum risk. It is a five-step process:

- ✓ Identify hazards.
- ✓ Assess those hazards.
- ✓ Make risk decisions.
- ✓ Implement controls.
- ✓ Supervise (watch for change).

ORM works as a closed-loop process for identifying and controlling hazards. Depending on the existing situation, ORM is applied at one of three levels: time-critical, deliberate, or in-depth.

Immediate and tangible ORM benefits include a reduction of injuries and fatalities, decreased material and property damage, and effective mission accomplishment.

Operational risk management has four guiding principles:

- Accept risk when the benefits outweigh the cost.
- Accept no unnecessary risk.
- Anticipate and manage risk by planning.
- Make risk decisions at the right levels.

Afloat and shore submarine commands can request ORM training through the Naval Safety Center, which will provide trained facilitators who can tailor ORM to meet your command's schedule, size, and classroom availability. Training usually takes half a day and is provided by the Safety Center's submarine division staff.

If your command has not yet had ORM training, contact the Naval Safety Center submarine division (Code 38). The telephone number is (757) 444-7089 (DSN prefix 564). The fax number is (757) 444-8636 (DSN prefix 564). ☎

*The e-mail address is  
afloat@safetycenter.navy.mil.*



## **For More Info...**

See OpNav Instruction 3500.39, and Marine Corps Order 3500.27A.